

feet this great and general object, the people of Washington, uncomplaining, pay a tax of two dollars, on each hundred of valued property. There is a seeming bankruptcy in the fact, yet it is patiently submitted to, because in the completion of the canal, they expect to find a relief from their burthens. Their thoughts are to the general benefits that may result, and not to a calculation based upon profit and loss, on dollars and cents. But they can go no further, nor ought they! They are without the ability, and were it possessed, they might reasonably stop to enquire, why are we to proceed further, when Maryland with larger resources, and a more evident interest evinces apathy and indifference.

These things merit to be considered, and ought to be considered fully and fairly by the representatives of this state, for in truth, and on this occasion may it be said, "there is a period which taken at the flood leads on to fortune, neglected all the voyage is bound in shallows."

Virginia you perceive, most probably, will not go further in this canal enterprise. The District of Columbia, kind as may be the feelings there, and anxious as may be the desire entertained, cannot. Will Congress? I think so, and I hope so! But then what ground is there for either thought or hope, if Maryland so materially interested, shall fold her arms, and manifest indifference to a further prosecution of the work. Should attempts be made to prove the necessity of further action, on the part of Congress, members may shrug their shoulders, and say, that Maryland, alive to her own interest, has yielded the undertaking as unworthy of prosecution. Then, what reply can be made? What extenuating plea be offered? It can't be said your treasury is embarrassed, for such is not the fact. Your productive stocks being above par value, are adequate to their own redemption, if redemption be necessary. Those which are unproductive, consisting of canal, rail roads and other minor investments make up the only debt you have, and this amounts only to 1,200 000 dollars. Shall it then be, that a debt of no higher magnitude, and which is only in a ratio of about twenty cents each to the aggregate population of the state, shall cause this important work to cease, when the District of Columbia, containing a population not greater than 30,000 souls, has